

**REMARKS**

Claims 1-24 are pending in the present application. Claims 6-8 and 17-24 were withdrawn from consideration, and have been canceled. Claims 1-5 and 9-16 are objected to, and have been noted as allowable. Claims 1-3, 9, 10, 13 and 15 have been amended to clarify further that which is being claimed. No claims have been added.

As an initial matter, Applicant acknowledges and thanks the Examiner for the notice of Allowable Subject Matter. Claims 6-8 and 17-24 have been withdrawn and ultimately canceled as being drawn to non-elected species. Applicant expressly reserves the right to pursue these and other claims in a separate continuation or divisional application.

In noting allowable subject matter, the Office Action in section 2 sets forth objections to all pending claims due to listed informalities "a" through "k," with suggested amendments given where appropriate. Although not every item in section 2 of the Office Action has been followed exactly, it is believed that the foregoing clarifying claim amendments nevertheless overcome all pending objections and any other potential issues regarding informalities.

In particular, Applicant notes that while Claim 1 recites, "A method for synchronizing an aspect of operation for two or more gaming machines," such a synchronization involves a first group of one or more defined "reference gaming machines" and a second group of one or more analyzed gaming machines. It is thus possible to have only one gaming machine from each group. In such a situation, the claimed synchronization would be between one reference gaming machine and one analyzed gaming machine (i.e., two gaming machines). Because some overlap may exist between groups in the event that multiple reference gaming machines exist in the first group, it is not thought that a defining term such as "other" would be an appropriate modifier for the second group of one or more analyzed gaming machines. Further, in making the suggested amendments to Claims 2 and 3, Applicant notes that the "subset" as claimed may or may not include one or more reference gaming machines. With

amendments thus being made to independent Claim 1 and all claims dependent therefrom as appropriate, it is believed that Claims 1-5 are now in condition for allowance.

With regards to amending Claim 9, it is not clear what is meant by item 2e of the Office Action. The remainder of Claim 9 has been amended as suggested, with additional clarifying amendments being made, and Claim 10 has similarly been amended as suggested. With amendments thus being made to independent Claim 9 and all claims dependent therefrom as appropriate, it is believed that Claims 9-12 are now in condition for allowance.

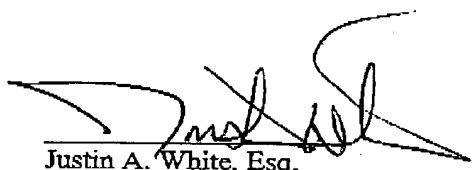
Claim 13 has also been amended to further clarify proper antecedent basis in several regards, but in a manner that also clarifies that the controlled additional gaming machines may be a subset of all proximately located gaming machines. Support for such a distinction can be found throughout the application as filed, such as, for example, in original Claim 1 as filed, and at paragraph 15 of the specification as filed. Claim 15 has also similarly been amended as suggested. With amendments thus being made to independent Claim 13 and all claims dependent therefrom as appropriate, it is believed that Claims 13-16 are now in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

Applicant respectfully submits that all claims are in proper form and condition for patentability, and thus requests a Notification of Allowance to that effect. It is believed that no fee is due at this time. Should any fee be required for any reason related to this paper or application, however, then the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge said fee to Deposit Account No. 50-0388, referencing Docket No. IGT1P124. Should any issues still remain that may be correctable via Examiner's Amendment or otherwise, or should there be any concerns regarding this paper or application in general, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully Submitted,  
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